

October 10, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 01-348 – EX PARTE

Application of EchoStar Communications
Corporation; General Motors Corporation and
Hughes Electronics Corporation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Please be advised that on Wednesday, October 9, 2002, Congressman Rick Boucher had a telephone conversation with Commissioner Michael J. Copps regarding the above-captioned proceeding. In that conversation, Congressman Boucher questioned the timing of FCC action on the merger application insofar as review of the transaction is still ongoing at the Department of Justice, with further meetings with the applicants scheduled for late October. Congressman Boucher also expressed his support for the benefits of the proposed merger for rural Americans, including local-into-local service for every television market in the country and an affordable nationwide broadband service.

Questions regarding this conversation may be directed to Johanna Mikes at (202) 225-3861.

Sincerely,

Johanna Mikes
Legislative Counsel
Office of Rep. Rick Boucher (VA-9th)